



Name of Project: REACH Intervention Project: Alabama's Alzheimer's Disease Demonstration Grant Program

Name of Organization: Alabama Department of Senior Services
Montgomery, Alabama

Choices for Independence Principle: Consumer Direction

Description:

The Alabama Department of Senior Services (ADSS) is improving Alabama's overall system of care by incorporating the needs and preferences of persons with dementia into the State's long term care system. ADSS is conducting a 3-year program to improve direct services available to family caregivers by incorporating Resources for Enhancing Alzheimer's Caregiver's Health (REACH) evidence-based, in-home social and behavioral interventions which promote skill building. The REACH program is designed to increase caregiver's ability to cope with daily stressors through training and problem solving skills. Also, the state is expanding volunteer services to include Caring Teams that partner with faith based communities to provide in-home and supportive services to families, and through Leadership Institutes for Older Adults which provide systems advocacy and volunteer service.

Due to the success of the REACH caregiver trainings, ADSS is working to incorporate the program statewide into the Alabama CARES program, the states National Family Caregiver Support Program.

ADSS is partnering with area agencies on aging, the University of Alabama Gerontology and Geriatric Division, and the South Alabama Regional Planning Commission on this project. In addition, ADSS is working with a noted researcher to implement and evaluate the program in a scientifically rigorous manner which will allow others to easily replicate this project.

For more information on the REACH Intervention Project, contact Bettina Schmid at (334) 850-3006 or via e-mail at Bettina.Schmid@adss.alabama.gov.